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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/667,545 | CHEN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Thuy V. Tran | Art Unit 2821 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08/22/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-13 and 16.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

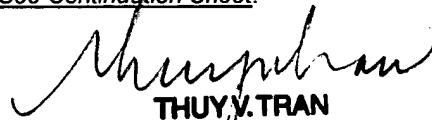
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 090105.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other See Continuation Sheet.



THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: copy of corrected Fig. 1 (submitted on 05/09/2005).

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicants' amendment submitted on August 22nd, 2005. In virtue of this amendment:

- Claims 5, 14-15, and 19 were previously canceled;
- Claims 17-18 and 20 are canceled upon the amendment; and thus,
- Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 16 are now presented in the instant application.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The Examiner has made the following amendment to correct Fig. 1 (which is submitted on May 9th, 2005) for clarity:

Fig. 1, inside box [14], --POWER FACTOR CORRECTION CIRCUIT (PFC)-- has been inserted; and

Fig. 1, inside box [12], --SELF-OSCILLATING INVERTER/STARTING CIRCUIT-- has been inserted.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 16 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- A lamp inverter starting circuit comprising an input portion that receives the bus voltage signal, wherein the bus voltage signal ranges up to 390 V, and a voltage controlled start-up portion that delays triggering of the inverter starting circuit based on the input bus voltage signal, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 1 (claims 2-4 and 6-10 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 1); and
- A method of firing a lamp comprising overcoming a breakdown voltage of a diac by ramping the bus voltage up to between about 300 V to about 500 V, turning the diac conductive when the charged capacitor reaches the diac breakdown voltage, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 11 (claims 12-13 and 16 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 11).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Remarks on Drawings

Upon reviewing the record of the file, the acceptance of the drawings Applicants submitted on April 18th, 2005 as indicated in PTOL-326/Part of Paper No. 07252005 is hereby withdrawn.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

09/01/2005



THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REPLACEMENT SHEET

1/5

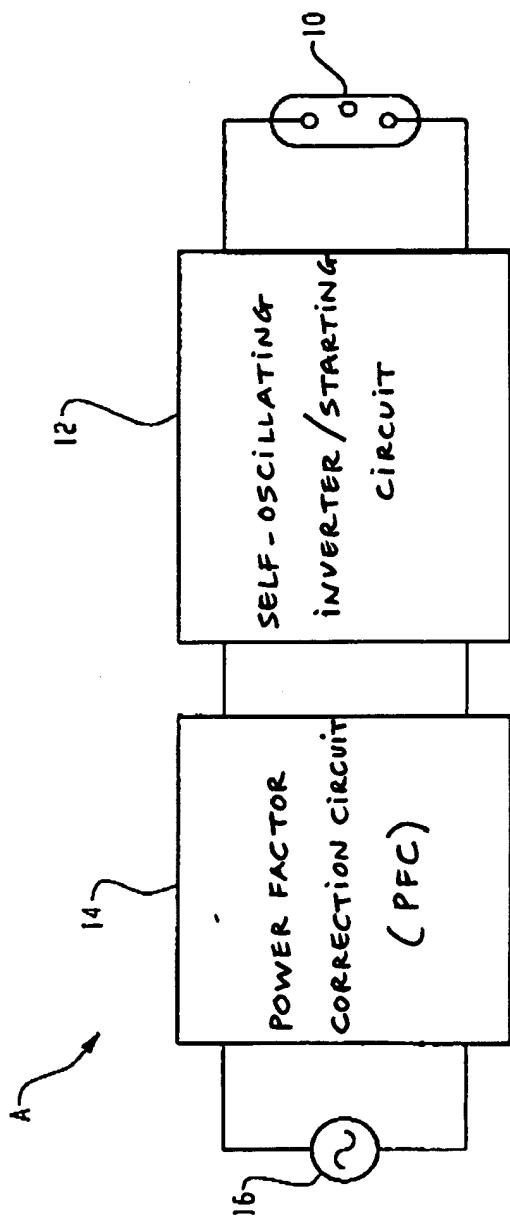


Fig. 1